

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAIGON 03701 281056Z

46

ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 IGA-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-02 /101 W

----- 023272

R 281003Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4285

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 3701

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, PFOR, VS

SUBJECT: AIR SERVICES CONTRACT

REF: STATE 068553

1. DURING CALL TODAY ON PRIME MINISTER KHIEM WITH US ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF, GENERAL WEYAND, I TOOK OPPORTUNITY TO INFORM HIM OF SUBSTANCE OF REFTEL, CONVERING FULLY CONTENT OF PARA 5 A.
2. PRIME MINISTER SAID IT WOULD NOT BE FEASIBLE FOR AIR VIET-NAM TO UNDERTAKE CONTRACT IN SUPPORT OF CAMBODIA AT PRESENT TIME AND THAT, IN ANY EVENT, AIR VIET-NAM WOULD BE FULLY OCCUPIED BY ADDITIONAL DUTIES IN VIEW OF PRESENT INTERNAL EMERGENCY. HE SAID THAT AIR VIET-NAM ASSETS WERE BEING DIVERTED FROM INTERNATIONAL RUNS TO ASSIST IN REFUGEE EVACUATION. HE SUGGESTED, THEREFORE, THAT WE PROCEED TO DIRECT CONTRACT WITH CASI.
3. IN VIEW OF CURRENT EMERGENCY SITUATION WHICH OBVIOUSLY NECESSITATES QUICKEST POSSIBLE ARRANGEMENTS TO ASSURE ORDERLY TRANSITION WE HAVE MOVED TO FALL-BACK POSITION AUTHORIZED IN PARA 6 REFTEL AND HAVE ASKED TECHNICAL STAFF TO START EXPLORATORY TALKS WITH CASI AND AIR AMERICA, PENDING ARRIVAL OF CONTRACT NEGOTIATING TEAM WHICH WE HOPE AID/WASHINGTON WILL DISPATCH SOONEST.

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PAGE 02 SAIGON 03701 281056Z

4. WE NOTE PARA 6 AUTHORIZES CONTRACT BETWEEN EMBASSY AND

CASI. WE HAVE NO OBJECTION TO THAT COURSE OR TO HAVING CONTRACT
BETWEEN AID AND CASI AS AID TRADITIONALLY HAS BEEN BETTER VERSED
IN ADMINISTRATION OF AIR TRANSPORT SERVICE CONTRACT. WHICHEVER
COURSE SEEMS BETTER TO WASHINGTON IS PERFECTLY ACCEPTABLE TO US. WE
ASSUME CONTRACTING TEAM WILL BRING DECISION WHETHER EMBASSY OR AID
WILL
CONCLUDE CONTRACT WITH CASI WHEN NEGOTIATION COMPLETE.
MARTIN

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